Replacement of LD-50 test on animals

*417. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to replace LD-50 test on animals by acute toxic class method, up and down method and fixed dose method; and

(b) if so, the time-frame in which this test would be competely replaced by other tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The matter regarding replacement of LD-50 (Lethal Dose-50) test on animals required for clearance of new drugs and pesticides was examined by a group of expert constituted by the Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) in its meeting held on 2.4.2002. The Expert Group headed by Dr. Ranjit Roy Choudhary examined the regulatory status of LD-50 test followed internationally including under OECD guidelines. The Committee has observed that in the case of drugs/ pharmaceuticals, the current acute LD-50 test as prescribed in the Scheduled Y of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules may be continued since alternative tests have not yet been approved internationally by agencies like US FDA etc.

Side-effects of tobacco

*418. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the sum and substance of the scientific research with regard to the side effects of tobacco;

(b) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of smokers die due to smoking and smoking affects their children as well;

(c) whether it is also a fact that pan masala is one of the main causes for the throat cancer;

(d) whether it is also a fact that various organisations are demanding ban on pan masala for the last several years; and